

Abstract

A method for fault management of an electronic ballast for a gas discharge lamp includes a steps of: preheating filaments of the lamp by applying a low current for predetermined time; igniting the lamp by increasing at a predetermined increasing rate a voltage applied to the lamp up to a predetermined ignition value; monitoring a lamp current of the lamp; if the lamp current is over a predetermined threshold, repeating the steps of igniting the lamp and monitoring the lamp current without repeating the preheating steps and powering the lamp at normal operating conditions.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method manages lamp fault conditions in electronic ballasts for one or more gas discharge lamps. The method for fault management of electronic ballast for at least one gas discharge lamp includes the steps of: preheating the lamp filaments applying a low current for a predetermined time; igniting the lamp by increasing at a predetermined rate the voltage applied up to a predetermined strike value; monitoring the lamp current; repeating the steps of igniting the lamp and monitoring the lamp current for a predetermined numbers of times if the lamp current is over a predetermined threshold; and powering the lamp at normal operating conditions.

D:\NrPortb\iManage\KRISTINEH\251886_1.DOC

2003-03-03 10:00:00